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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/176,274	10/21/1998	HIDEAKI OHSHIMA	862.2492	7987
5514	7590	08/18/2006	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			BRIER, JEFFERY A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2628	

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/176,274

Applicant(s)

OHSHIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffery A. Brier

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-11,15-19,21-25 and 29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-11,15-19,21-25 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/5/2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendments filed on 6/5/2006 and 5/5/2006 have been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 5/5/2006 have been fully considered and they are persuasive to overcome the Thomson reference in view of the amendments made to the independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

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4. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 15-19, 21-25, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Refer to the Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility published on the USPTO website on October 26, 2005,

http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/guidelines101_20051026.pdf

and published in the OG 22Nov2005

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/og/2005/week47/patgupa.htm>).

This application is directed to a useful, concrete, and tangible result of displaying or printing the rendered image, however, these claims are not. These claims are directed to abstract rendering. Claims 3 and 17 abstractly claim rendering the output image on a display screen but do not claim displaying the rendered output. Claims 4 and 18 abstractly claim outputting rendering information but do not claim permanently visually displaying the output information. Claims 5 and 19 abstractly render print information but does not claim printing the print of the print information. *State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group Inc.* (CA FC) 47 USPQ2d 1596, 1603 (7/23/1998). *AT&T Corp. v. Excel Communications Inc.* (CA FC) 50 USPQ2d 1447.

On page 1603 first paragraph the CAFC wrote in *State Street*:

Under *Benson*, this may have been a sufficient indicium of nonstatutory subject matter. However, after *Diehr* and *Alappat*, the mere fact that a claimed invention involves inputting numbers, calculating numbers, outputting numbers, and storing numbers, in and of itself, would not render it nonstatutory subject matter, unless, of course, its operation does not produce a "useful, concrete and tangible result." *Alappat*, 33 F.3d at 1544, 31 USPQ2d at 1557. 7

On page 1603 paragraph labeled [4] the CAFC wrote:

[4] The question of whether a claim encompasses statutory subject matter should not focus on which of the four categories of subject matter a claim is directed to -- process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter-- but rather on the essential characteristics of the subject matter, in particular, its practical utility. Section 101 specifies that statutory subject matter must also satisfy the other "conditions and requirements" of Title 35, including novelty, nonobviousness, and adequacy of disclosure and notice. See *In re Warmerdam*, 33 F.3d 1354, 1359, 31 USPQ2d 1754, 1757-58 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Thus, claims 1-5, 7-11, 15-19, 21-25, and 29 fail to claim a useful, concrete and tangible result.

Claim 29 is additionally non-statutory because it is claiming a program per se since the claimed program is not instructing a computer to perform the claimed method. Refer to ANNEX IV of the Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 15-19, 21-25, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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Claim 1 at line 6 claims output positions, however, each object should only have one output position and at line 16 “the output position” lacks antecedent basis in the claim because at line 6 “output positions” is claimed.

Claim 15 at lines 6 and 16 has the same issues that claim 1 has at lines 6 and 16. Claim 29 at lines 7 and 21 has the same issues that claim 1 has at lines 6 and 16.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Aoyama, US Patent No. 6,124,841 and Unuma EP 0466154 teach independent object generation. Foley discusses automatic object placement and at page 1051 in the third full paragraph states “In all these cases, it is important to avoid both regularity and complete randomness.”. It would appear that applicants “independent” position determination of the rendering position would create randomness which may be constrained by the first and second positions defined by the rendering attributes of each object.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 15-19, 21-25, and 29 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 101 and 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

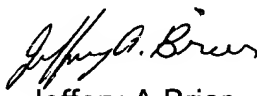
9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest determining each rendering

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position independently of the output images for each of said plurality of objects expressing the image selected in said selection step correspond to the output position on the basis of a ration of change in output position between the first and second positions defined by the rendering attributes of each of said plurality of objects held in said holding step compared to the image selected in the selection step.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffery A Brier whose telephone number is (571) 272-7656. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 7:00 to 3:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi, can be reached at (571) 272-7664. The fax phone Number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jeffery A Brier
Primary Examiner
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